

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 2, 3, 5, and 10-21 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please ADD new claims 22-26 as follows:

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) An optical scanning apparatus comprising:

light source means for emitting a light beam;

a rotary polygon mirror for reflecting and deflecting the light beam emitted from the light source means;

entrance optical means for guiding the light beam emitted from the light source means to the rotary polygon mirror; and

imaging optical means for forming an image of the light beam reflectively deflected by the rotary polygon mirror on a surface to be scanned , wherein:

in a main scanning section, the light beam enters onto a deflection surface of the rotary polygon mirror with a predetermined inclination angle which is formed between a direction of the light beam entering onto the deflection surface and an optical axis of the imaging optical means,

the imaging optical means has a plurality of asymmetric change surfaces each of which has a curvature in a sub-scanning direction that changes asymmetrically in a main scanning direction, assuming the optical axis of the imaging optical means as a center, and

in the plurality of asymmetric change surfaces, a curvature of a surface located at a side with respect to the optical axis of the imaging optical means, where an optical path of the light beam entering onto the deflection surface of the rotary polygon mirror with the predetermined inclination angle exists, is larger in a whole of an effective scanning region than a curvature of a surface located at a side with respect to the optical axis of the imaging optical means, where an optical path of the light beam entering onto the deflection surface of the rotary polygon mirror with the predetermined inclination angle does not exist.

23. (New) An optical scanning apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$k/W \leq 0.6$$

where k is an $f\theta$ coefficient of the imaging optical means and W is an effective scanning width on the surface to be scanned.

24. (New) An optical scanning apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$|\beta_s| \geq 2,$$

where β_s is a lateral magnification in the sub-scanning direction of the imaging optical means.

25. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

the image scanning apparatus according to any one of claims 22, 23, and 24;

a photosensitive body located at the surface to be scanned;

a developing unit for developing an electrostatic latent image, formed on the photosensitive body with a light beam under scan by the optical scanning apparatus, into a toner image;

a transfer unit for transferring the developed toner image onto a transfer medium;

and

a fixing unit for fixing the transferred toner image on the transfer medium.

26. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

the optical scanning apparatus according to any one of claims 22, 23, and 24; and

a printer controller for converting code data supplied from an external device into an image signal and supplying the image signal to said optical scanning apparatus.